

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

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Saturday, March 1. 1707.

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**I**N my last I was very earnestly arguing for a Treaty of Peace, and Restoration with the Duke of *Bavaria*; I am told by some, I am acting a *French* Part, and letting a Traitor to the Emperor into the Bowels of his Country.

As to acting a *French* Part, I think it deserves no Notice; but as to the Duke of *Bavaria*, I am arguing but the same Politics, which wise Princes have always acted. If the Duke of *Bavaria* was in the Predicament of Monsieur *Tallard*, and you had made him a Burgher of *Nottingham*, I should not say one Word towards it, nor does my Discourse confine me even in Notion to the *Bavarian* in particular; but in any Case like this it must be allow'd, that bringing over such a Prince from the Enemy, would be a Stab to his Strength, and a fatal Blow to his present Projects.

The Duke of *Bavaria* is a daring and war-like Prince, forward and enterprising; he is in the Field with Arms in his Hand, and back'd with *French* Power; nay, it is his good Fortune at this Time to have it be the Interest of the King of *France* to support him, since it seems to be the only Step, he can take with Prospect of Success.

Indeed 'tis easier to see Mistakes, when they are committed, than before; but certainly whoever looks on the Affairs of the last Year, may see, that had not the *French* push'd themselves into the hasty Action at *Ramellies* last Year, but been content to have stood upon the Defensive in *Flanders*, and push'd their Successes on the Upper *Rhine*, we had seen the last a very unhappy Campaign.

In the Beginning of the Summer they took *Haguenau*, rais'd the Blockade of *Fort Louis*, seiz'd all the Magazine and Train of Artillery, which had been employ'd the Year before in the Siege of *Landau*, and push'd the *Germans* over the *Rhine* into their strong Post at *Stolhoffen*.

Had the Duke of *Bavaria* with but 12000 Men of that Army march'd directly for the *Danube*, supply'd with Arms, Stores and Money, he might have shown his Face in his own Country, without any Body to hinder him, where he would soon have doubled that Number out of the discontented *Moors*, and made himself very formidable to the Empire.

At least had he done thus, these Consequences would have follow'd. The *Palatinate* Troops or *Hessians* could not have march'd into *Italy*. The Imperial Army there, for Want of those Troops, would never have been able to have rais'd the Siege of *Turin*, and the Duke of *Savoy* must have been ruin'd; for 'tis most evident, the Count de *Medavi* with 16000 of the best Troops in the *French* Army, were kept from the Siege to match the *Hessians* in *Italy*, who, had they not been diverted, would have made the Duke of *Orleans* too strong to be assaulted in his Intrenchments, as he was; and thus an Attempt made on that side, might have unravell'd the whole War, and made the Campaign of the *Danube* necessary to be act'd over again, and another *Blenheim* needful to be fought.

I could run this Observation a great way, and bring it on to the State of the Affairs in *Spain*, which on the Successes in *Italy* would soon have been retriev'd; but of that by it self.

To come back to my Proposal, 'tis in the next place to compare the past with the present, and then it may be ask'd; if the *French* made this then, what if they should retitit

it now, we have a great Discourse of the Duke of *Bavaria* marching from the *Rhine*—I confess, I do not see, but the Coast is clearer for him now, than ever it was; for the *Hessians*, *Prussians*, and *Palatinate* Troops are gone, they are actually in *Italy* or in *Flanders*, the Forces of the Empire, as now dispers'd, are most despicable things, the old *Veteran* Imperial Regiments are in *Italy* or *Hungaria*, the Troops of the Circles are never much depended on, the Quotas are uncertain, their Rendezvous late, and their Supplies remote: I see, nothing can prevent the Duke of *Bavaria*, if he is assist'd with about 20 or 25000 Men from marching into his own Country, and what the Effect of all that may be, I dare not determine —

I shall not so much as suspect the King of *Sweden* on this Head, tho' there is an unhappy Question, which some ask, and few can answer, and which may, and I believe, does give Umbrage in that Case; and that is, *What do the Swedes stay all this while in Saxony for?* 'Tis a Question, I will not undertake to determine, I leave it to Time, and I believe, that Time will not be long.

These are the Reasons, why I should be glad to hear, that good Offers were made to the Duke of *Bavaria*, who once brought off from the *French* Interest, all those back Doors would be shut, the Conquests obtained last Year in *Italy* effectually secur'd, the Imperial Affairs kept more remote from Danger, and the extended Projects of *France* exceedingly straightned.

I confess, 'tis but a Thought of my own, and perhaps may not reach the Case in all its Particulars; but certainly the taking such a dangerous Prince out of the Power of the Enemy, would be a Stroke at this Time as fatal to him, as another Siege of *Turin*, or a Battle of *Ramellies*.



## MISCELLANEA.

I Have been some time upon the Enquiry, whether there be any Want of Labour in *England* for the Poor, I think, I shall easily demonstrate that there is not; and the Dearness of Wages, above what is to be gain'd by any of the People in the World, is an Argument that can never be confuted.

The Labour of the Poor and their Pay, I describ'd in my last; I prov'd. that in the *South* Part of *England*, a poor Man gains twice as much for his Labour, as in some other Parts of the Nation, both *North* and *West*.

This on the other hand makes the People of our *Northern* Countries spread themselves so much to the *South*, where Trade, War, and the Sea carrying off so many, there is a greater Want of Hands.

And yet 'tis plain, there is Labour for the Hands which remain in the *North*, or else the Country would be depopulated, and the People come all away to the *South* to seek Work; and even in *Yorkshire* where Labour is cheapest, the People can gain more by their Labour than in any of the manufacturing Countries of *Germany*, *Italy* or *France*, and live much better.

If there was one poor Man in *England* more than there was Work to employ, either some Body else must stand still for him, or he must be starv'd; if another Man stands still for him, he wants a Days Work, and goes to seek it, and by Consequence supplants another, and this a third, and the Contention brings it to this; no, says the poor Man, *that is like to be put out of his Work*, rather than that Man shall come in, I'll do it cheaper; nay, says the other, but I'll do it cheaper than you; and that one poor Man wanting but a Days Work would bring down the Price of Labour in a whole Nation; for the Man cannot starve, and will work for any thing, rather than want it.

It may be objected here, this is contradicted by our Number of Beggars.

I am sorry to say, I am oblig'd here to call Begging an Employment, since 'tis plain, if there is more Work than Hands to perform it, no Man, that has his *Limbs* and his *Senses*, need beg, and those that have not, ought to be put in a Condition not to want it.

So that Begging is a meer Scandal in the General; in the *Able*, 'tis a Scandal upon their Industry; and in the *Impotent*, 'tis a Scandal upon the Country.

Nay, the Begging as now practis'd, is a Scandal upon our Charity, and perhaps the Foundation of all our present Grievance—How can it be possible then, any Man or Woman, who being sound in Body and Mind, may, as 'tis apparent they may, have Wages for their Work, should be so base, so meanly spirited as to beg an Alms for God's sake——Truly, the Scandal lies on our Charity, and People have such a Notion in *England* of being pitiful and charitable, that they encourage Vagrants, and by a mistaken Zeal, do more Harm than Good.

This is a large Scene, and much might be said upon it; I shall abridge it as much as possible——The Poverty of *England* does not lie among the craving Beggars, but among poor Families, where the Children are numerous, and where Death or Sickness has depriv'd them of the Labour of the Father; these are the Houses, that the Sons and Daughters of Charity, if they would order it well, should seek out and relieve; an Alms ill directed may be Charity to the particular Person, but becomes an Injury to the Publick, and no Charity to the Nation; and the Reason, why so many pretend to want Work, is, that they can live so well with the Pretence of wanting Work, they would be mad to leave it, and work in earnest. And I affirm of my own Knowledge, when I have wanted a Man for labouring Work, and offer'd 9 s. per Week to strouling Fellows at my Door, they have frequently told me to my Face, they could get